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PART I.

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.

Sericultural Department.

READ—

Report on the working of the Sericultural Department during the year 1928-29 received with letter *No. D4. 338-29, dated 10th September 1929, from the Director of Industries and Commerce in Mysore.

(Printed as annexure.)

ORDER NO. D. 4790-841—SERI. 32-29-4, DATED 14TH NOVEMBER 1929.

Recorded.

Seasonal Conditions and Mulberry Cultivation.—The area under mulberry cultivation fell from 50,194 acres in 1927-28 to 47,760 acres during the year under review. The decline in area was due partly to unfavourable seasonal conditions and partly to a fall in prices of all grades of silk.

It is seen from the report that several foreign varieties of mulberry have been planted in separate plots, that some of them are doing well and that manurial experiments are being conducted in the mulberry gardens at Mysore and Channapatna. Government desire that till the Sericultural Department has an adequate Botanical Staff, the help of the Agricultural Department should be availed of as far as possible for a systematic study of mulberry cultivation.

Expansion.—Government are glad to note that the Department has been doing propaganda work to expand mulberry cultivation in co-operation with the Local Boards and Village Panchayets. The Department supplied about 70 cart-loads of mulberry cuttings free of cost to *bona fide* sericulturists in various places and about 2,500 saplings fit for trees were supplied from the Government mulberry gardens at Mysore, Channapatna and Kolar. In addition to the nurseries at Channapatna and Mysore, a nursery for raising saplings fit for trees was prepared in the old garden at Kolar.

About 50 students were under training in the several Sericultural Farms and it is satisfactory to note that three of these trained students have started aided grainages. Reeling classes were attached to the Domestic Basin Installation maintained by private gentlemen at Siddlaghatta, Closepet, Nanjangud, Agara and Garudapalya. It is gratifying to note that the students trained in these classes have been taken as operatives in the respective installations and that the concessions sanctioned by Government in this behalf are being properly appreciated and utilised.

The Sericultural Classes attached to the Middle Schools at Malvalli and Kuderu in the Mysore District and at Grama in the Hassan District worked satisfactorily during the year. Altogether about 145 students have taken up Sericulture in the three schools and ten students of Kuderu and Malvalli Schools offered sericulture as an optional subject for the Mysore Lower Secondary Examination of 1929, eight of whom passed the examination. This is a hopeful feature as indicating the disposition to combine vocational training with general education.

Seed Supply and Grainage Operations.—The Government Grainages prepared 8,13,132 disease free layings during the year under review as against 6,84,727 during the year preceding, Channapatna Grainage leading with 3,95,805 layings. Government observe that the work in the Kolar Grainage which prepared only 41,345 layings is disappointing and that the facilities there do not appear to be properly utilised. The Director is requested to see that this grainage makes its proper contribution to the programme of supply of disease free layings. The demand for higher yielding cross breed layings was on the increase and 3,25,778 cross breed and pure race layings were made available during the year as against 2,19,818 layings in the previous year. It is gratifying to observe from the report that the number of seed rearers in Bidadi and Kunigal areas rose from 132 at the end of June 1928 to 440 during the year. The cold storage plant, installed at Mysore was utilised to conduct experiments to delay the hatching of eggs, and to preserve moths for cross breeding purposes and the results of the experiments achieved so far are interesting. Government hope that the Department will make use of the facilities provided for increasing the output of seed of higher yielding races.

Aided Grainages.—Three aided grainages were started during the year, bringing the total number of aided grainages at the end of the year to 5. These prepared 3,12,000 disease free layings which were distributed among 407 persons. The Director is requested to see that these aided grainages are carefully supervised and assisted in perfecting their technique.

Though the large and important problem of providing an adequate supply of good seed still remains to be solved, very notable progress was made in grainage work. The development of private grainages in which alone a satisfactory solution of the problem is to be sought is a very encouraging feature and the Director is requested to take steps for increasing the number of such grainages in all sericultural centres.

Sericultural Co-operation.—Two Co-operative Societies at Closepet and Thimmasandra, Channapatna Taluk, were wound up for want of competent workers and that one new society was organised at Hindignal. These Societies prepared 84,383 layings during the year as against 45,766 layings during 1927-28. It is reported that attention was devoted mainly to the consolidation of the work in the Societies already started. The usefulness of these Co-operative Societies in the scheme of improvement of Sericulture in the State cannot be over estimated, and the Director of Industries and Commerce is requested to pay more attention to the development of these societies.

Filature and Reeling.—The Assistant Superintendent of Sericulture in charge of Reeling and Filature was deputed to Italy, France and other European countries to study filature technique. Twenty students were trained in the Government Filature at Mysore and ten basins of the Mysore "Domestic" type were added on to the Filature during the year. The bulk of the silk produced was of fine denier, and it is satisfactory to note that for the first time, the Filature was able to find a market for its entire output. It is reported that the arrangements made for selling twisted and dyed filature silk in Northern India worked very satisfactorily and that the Filature has been able to create a ready demand for high grade silk both in and outside the State. Government believe that the Filature silk, though of excellent quality, still offers much

scope for improvement, especially in cleanliness, and the Director of Industries and Commerce is requested to devote attention to this problem. Government are glad to note that vigorous propaganda work was conducted by the Department to improve the quality of silk and waste produced in the State by popularising the Mysore Domestic Basin. There is however, considerable scope still for development and Government desire that advantage should be taken of the present favourable conditions as regards demand for high grade silk and of the concessions already sanctioned for the selling of domestic basins at reduced rates and the starting of reeling classes in new domestic basin installations to improve the quality of reeling and expand markets for Mysore Silk. The ideal should be to replace all the inefficient country charkas by improved reeling appliances. The Director of Industries and Commerce is requested to place himself in touch with the Trade Commissioner for Mysore in London, as to how best Mysore Silk and Mysore Silk goods could be profitably introduced into European markets.

Popularisation of Domestic Basins.—The superiority of silk reeled with the Domestic Basin to the charka reeled silk seems to have been generally recognised. Reeling demonstrations with the Mysore Domestic Basin were conducted by the Department, in important reeling centres and exhibitions of sericultural products were arranged at several places. A simple silk twisting plant which could be introduced as companion to the domestic basin is stated to be in the course of trial, and this should if successful, give a fillip to the utilisation of high grade silk on local looms, and also secure to reelers the profits of another home industry.

Government are pleased to note that all the District Boards took interest in sericultural work and co-operated with the Department in all branches of its activities. It is reported that about 25 Village Panchayets in the Mysore District were induced to obtain and supply disease free laying to the raiyats.

Central Silk Association.—The Mysore Silk Association raised its membership during the year to 161. It is reported that the Association has arranged to public a monthly bulletin giving information regarding the quality of silk most in demand in consuming centres, and the prevailing market rates. Government observe that there are several important problems relating to the silk industry which can only be solved by the earnest efforts of the Sericultural Association.

Conclusion.—Government observe that the expenditure in the Farms considerably exceeds the receipts and though this is to a certain extent inevitable in a Department which concerns itself largely with educative propaganda and experimental work, there is no reason why well equipped Farms which pursue ordinary sericultural activities should not be able to pay their way. Even farms which attend to propaganda ought with careful attention to the full utilisation of their resources, show less of disparity between expenditure and receipts. The expenditure on purely experimental work is of course on a different footing but the Department ought to be able to indicate clearly how much should be taken as coming under this head, and what progress was made in the investigation on hand. The Director is requested to see that special attention is devoted to improve the receipts from the Farms, and that expenditure on which no money receipts can properly be expected is shown separately as far as possible, and some idea is given of the results achieved from the activities to which it relates. The operations of the Department during the year under review have shown that the development of sericultural industries in the State depends upon the grading up of the Mysore Silk and Government trust that continued efforts will be made by the Department to improve seed production and reeling.

The Sericultural Department has on the whole done satisfactory work during the year under review.

N. RAMA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Departments.

in the scope of their operations depends upon the staff provided for the purpose. Government have sanctioned with effect from the current year a small staff to Sericultural Inspector and it will be possible to further develop the work during the current year. It may be mentioned that some of the Societies have expressed a desire to extend their drainage operations and the facilities provided by Government for aided grainages have been extended to such societies also.

Sericultural Farms.—The aggregate receipts from the Sericultural Farms and grainages under the control of the Department during the current year amounted to Rs. 11,086 as against an expenditure on the maintenance of the farms of Rs. 26,500. The receipt do not at present bear a reasonable proportion to the expenditure incurred by Government on the farms chiefly due to the fact that the water-supply in the farms is inadequate. Arrangements were made during the last year to increase the water-supply in the more important farms by putting down bore-holes and it is hoped that the receipts of the farms during the current year will show improvement.

Filature and Reeling.—The Government Filature produced 2,749 lbs. of reeled silk during the current year. The bulk of the silk produced was of fine denier. This is the first year since the establishment of the Filature during which the entire production has been sold during the year and the Filature has been able to enter into forward contracts for the disposal of its output. The Filature has been able to create a ready demand for its silk in Bombay and in Calcutta, but the continued depression in the Industry renders it necessary that the cost of production should be brought down as low as possible. The filature was extended by the addition of 10 basins during the current year, and the controlling factors governing the silk industry point to the need for extending its output still further.

In their review of the Department for the last year, Government observe that endeavour should be made to create a market for the silk reeled in the Domestic basins. This problem has since been largely solved and the domestic basin silk finds a ready market both in the State and outside. Ten Installations of Domestic basins are now at work in the State and there is at present a demand for as many more. In view of the need for manufacturing this type of plant more largely, I propose, in future to manufacture the domestic basins in the Kolar District Workshop as well as in the Chamarajendra Technical Institute. An efficient twisting plant to twist raw silk in association with the domestic basins has now been devised and will be placed upon the market during the current year.

Central Sericultural Association.—The membership on the rolls of the Associatio has increased and the Association has commenced its work in right earnest. There ar important problems relating to the silk industry which can only be solved by the earnese efforts of the Sericultural Association. The Dewan Sahib was pleased to open at Chintan mani the last session of the Sericultural Conference convened by the Association in April 1929.

Conclusion.—The operations of the Department during the current year have shown that well reeled silk not only obtains a better price than silk reeled according to the indigenous methods but is also readily sold although the price now realised is less than what it was a few years ago. It is therefore necessary that the improved recling apparatus should be popularised as largely as possible and that the cost of production of the raw materials of the industry, *viz.*, cocoons, should be reduced without affecting the income of either the rearer or the mulberry grower. It is urgent therefore that strenuous efforts should be made by the Department to acquire a greater measure of control over seed production and to increase the quantity of cross-breed layings distributed in Government grainages. It will also be helpful if the Silk Association can organise cocoon markets such as those that prevail in Japan in order to stabilise the price of cocoons and bring the rearer into more intimate touch with the reelers engaged in the Industry.